the basis by the Law Ministry for arriving at a decision in regard to the transfer to cases from criminal to civil, and in particular, the cases which are more than 5 years old, for disposal by the Fast Track Courts ... ".

Government is examining the matter and has called for detailed information from the State Governments and the Registries of the High Courts with regard to the number of Fast Track Courts, strength in these courts, number of pending criminal cases, availability of infrastructure, etc.

Pending juvenile cases

1002. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 5,000 cases are pending against juveniles, many of whom have been languishing for over 12 years;

(b) if so, the reasons for such pendency of juvenile cases which affects the future of juveniles; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government for early closure of long pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Information has been sought from the Registries of the High Courts and the State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The main responsibility for early closure of juvenile cases rests with the State Governments and the UTs under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2006 which is effective from 23.8.2006 and the courts in which they they have been filed. In so far as the Central Government is concerned, it has under implementation a scheme of comprehensive computerization of all courts in the country with a view to facilitate speedier disposal of cases, including cases filed against juveniles that may be pending in courts.

Village courts

1003. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is proposing village courts in the country with an aim to bring justice to the doorsteps of the common man;

(b) if so, whether any Bill has been prepared for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the salient features of the village courts in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Gram Nyayalayas Bill, 2007 has been introduced in Rajya Sabha on 14th May, 2007 to provide for the establishment of Gram Nyayalayas. Setting up of Gram Nyayalayas would bring to the people of rural areas speedy, affordable and substantial justice.

Mining concessions

1004. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of 260 iron mines, for which the Ministry has approved mineral concessions during the period between 2001 to 2007, 172 went to merchant miners mainly for export purpose which is not in the national interest;